

Message Text

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SUBJ: IOANNIDES SUGGESTS PRESSURES FROM ABROAD CONTRIBUTED TO
CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN GREECE IN SUMMER OF 1974

REF ATHENS 444

1. IN THE COURSE OF HIS DEFENSE PRESENTATION AT THIS TRIAL FOR IMPLICATION IN THE FEBRUARY 1975 CONSPIRACY (REFTEL -- PARA 5), IOANNIDES REFERRED TO CERTAIN EVENTS SURROUNDING THE SUMMER 1974 CRISIS IN GREECE. SPECIFICALLY, HE ALLEGED THAT ONE OF THE REASONS WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN JULY 1974 WAS THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME (OF WHICH IOANNIDES WAS BEHIND-THE-SCENE STRONGMAN) WAS SUBJECTED TO MANY PRESSURES, FROM COUNTRIES (UNNAMED) FROM WHICH IT HAD ORDERED SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF MILITARY MATERIAL, TO HAND OVER POWER TO THE POLITICIANS. IOANNIDES EXPLAINED THAT THIS PLACED THE THEN GREEK GOVERNMENT IN A DILEMMA, I.E. EITHER TO HAND OVER POWER NOR NOT TO RECEIVE THE WEAPONS WHICH HAD BEEN ORDERED TO COUNTER THE TURKISH THREAT. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT "THUS, WE GAVE IN."

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2. IN ANOTHER PORTION OF HIS DEFENSE, IOANNIDES DE-

CLARED THAT THE FORMER MILITARY REGIME FELL AS THE RESULT OF A STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER (WHO, ACCORDING TO SOME PRESS REPORTS, ALLEGEDLY SAID ON JULY 22, 1974, THAT "CHANGES ARE GOING ON IN GREECE"). KATHIMERINI (PRO-GOVERNMENT) HEADLINED ITS COVERAGE OF THE STORY WITH "THE AMERICANS THREW ME ASIDE, IOANNIDES ASSERTS".

3. THE CONSPIRACY TRIAL, AS IT RELATED TO IOANNIDES AND RETIRED ARMY OFFICER DIMITRIOS PAPAPOSTOLOU, ENDED YESTERDAY (MARCH 16). BOTH DEFENDENTS WERE FOUND GUILTY, WITH IOANNIDES RECEIVING A 14 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE (HE HAS ALREADY BEEN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE APRIL 21, 1967 COUP) AND PAPAPOSTOLOU BEING SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT. BOTH HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH ROLES IN PLOTTING THE OVERTHROW OF THE PRESENT CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT IN FEBRUARY 1975. KUBISCH

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